

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02801 191844Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 OPIC-03 SAJ-01 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /068 W
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O R 191821Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2823

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COMMUNIST WORKERS ATTEMPT THROW OUT SOCIALIST EDITOR

1. AN EFFORT IS NOW BEING MADE BY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PRINTERS TO PURGE RAUL REGO, EDITOR OF SOCIALIST PAPER "REPUBLICA". REGO, A WELL-KNOWN OPPONENT OF THE CAETANO-SALAZAR REGIME, WAS INFORMATION MINISTER IN THE FIRST POST REVOLUTION GOVERNMENT, IS A DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, AND A DELEGATE TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. AS OF 6:00 P.M. MAY 19, REGO WAS IN HIS OFFICE REFUSING TO LEAVE FOR FEAR THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED BACK IN AGAIN, AND THE WORKERS HAVE SENT UP PICKETS OUTSIDE THE PLANT ALLOWING NO ONE TO ENTER.

2. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE CALLED A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION FOR THE EVENING OF MAY 19 AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOCIALIST LEADER
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02801 191844Z

MARIO SOARES IS IN THE STREET NOW HANDING OUT PAMPHLETS

CALLING FOR THE DEMONSTRATION.

3. ATTEMPT TO GET REGO WAS PRECIPITATED BY EMBARRASSING ARTICLE MAY 16 IN WHICH REPUBLICA PUBLISHED THE LIST OF CHARGES COMMUNIST WORKERS WERE PLANNING TO USE IN THEIR PURGE OF NON-COMMUNISTS ON THE STAFF OF PORTUGUESE RADIO-TELEVISION. CHARGES INCLUDED THINGS LIKE "BROTHER IN LAW OF --", "ALMOST CERTAINLY CORRUPT," "MENTALLY RETARDED", FRUSTRATED HOMOSEXUAL," ETC.

4. COMMENT: REPUBLICA IS ONE OF FEW PAPERS WILLING TO CRITICIZE THE COMMUNISTS, THE GOP, AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. REGO'S "ANTI-FASCIST CREDENTIALS ARE IMPECCABLE.

5. ATTEMPT TO PURGE REGO IS TAKING PLACE DURING AN UNUSUALLY TENSE DAY WITH THE STILL-UNEXPLAINED MRPP-RAL-1 ACTIONS OF THE WEEKEND REVERBERATING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIRST POST-MARCH 11 AFM ASSEMBLY (LISBON 2786). ACTING FONMIN AND LEADING SOCIALIST, JORGE CAMPINOS, TOLD AMBASSADOR LATER AFTERNOON MAY 19 THAT ANOTHER POLITICAL CRISIS WAS IN TRAIN. IN GENERAL CAMPINOS APPEARED QUITE DISCOURAGED ABOUT LATEST SERIES OF EVENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMUNISTS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, EDITORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON02801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750175-0998
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750539/aaaabjlh.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST WORKERS ATTEMPT THROW OUT SOCIALIST EDITOR
TAGS: PINT, PO, (REGO, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006